

PL



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,076	08/15/2001	Dean Liu	03226.114001;P6325	9579
32615	7590	10/06/2004	EXAMINER	
OSHA & MAY L.L.P./SUN 1221 MCKINNEY, SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			DU, THUAN N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2116	
DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,076

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

Thuan N. Du

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) *
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/27/03.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file: Drawings (dated 12/27/01) and IDS (dated 10/27/03).
2. Claims 1-12 are presented for examination.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with informal drawings (dated 12/27/01) which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings are required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 4 containing limitation which already claimed in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Art Unit: 2116

6. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. [Watanabe] (U.S. Patent No. 5,172,330).

7. Regarding claims 1 and 4, Watanabe teaches a computer chip (integrated circuit) comprising:

chip logic (logic circuit area 124) [Fig. 12]; and

a clock tree [Figs. 4-10; a plurality of buffers forming a clock tree] that comprises at least one clock driver [clock buffer 42 of Fig. 4; clock buffer 1205 of Fig. 12; col. 3, lines 25-26; col. 4, line 27], wherein power distributed to the clock tree is isolated from power distributed to the chip logic [Fig. 12; col. 4, lines 25-28].

Watanabe does not explicitly show that the computer chip including a power supply. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized that a power supply would obviously be included in Watanabe's system in order to provide power to the clock tree and the chip logic.

8. Regarding claim 2, Watanabe teaches that a capacitor is coupled along the clock tree [col. 5, lines 19-20]. Since power distributed to the clock tree is isolated from power distributed to the chip logic, power distributed to the capacitor coupled along the clock tree is also isolated from power distributed to the chip logic.

9. Regarding claim 3, even though not shown by Watanabe, however, the logic circuit area 124, inherently, comprises at least one logic element.

10. Regarding claims 5 and 6, Watanabe teaches the computer chip further comprising:

a first lead through a circuit board to the computer chip (line 1202), wherein the first lead is used to distribute power from the power supply to the clock tree [Fig. 12; col. 4, lines 26-28]; and

a second lead through the circuit board to the computer chip (line 1201), wherein the second lead is used to distribute power from the power supply to the chip logic [Fig. 12; col. 4, lines 25-26].

11. Regarding claims 7-12, since they recite method of operating of the apparatus defined in the apparatus claims, they are rejected accordingly based on the rejection of the apparatus claims.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuan N. Du whose telephone number is (703) 308-6292 (after 10/14/04, (571) 272-3673). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM, EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159 (after 10/14/04, (571) 272-3670). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900. The fax number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.



Thuan N. Du
September 27, 2004

BEST AVAILABLE COPY